

**FORT LEE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FORT LEE, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES**

**PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING  
September 8, 2020  
Zoom Meeting  
7:30 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by, Board President, Mrs. Han Silver.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The Flag Salute was led by Mrs. Morell.

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Public Announcement was read by Mrs. Han Silver.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Ms. Elisa Cho, Ms. Paula K. Colbath, Mr. Ralph DiMeglio, Mrs. Holly Morell, Mrs. Kristen Richter, Mrs. Candace Romba, Mr. Michael Rubino, Mrs. Lauran Tuck, Mrs. Han Silver

**Also Present:** Mr. Kenneth Rota, Ms. Haquisha Q. Taylor, Dr. Sharon Amato, Dennis McKeever, Board Attorney

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, at 6:40 p.m., to move into Executive Session.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

The Board reconvened into the Public Meeting at 7:35 p.m.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Mr. Rota welcomed back all the students to the 2020 – 2021 school year.

Mr. Rota shared that the Bergen Record recognized the five (5) finalist selected for the Doodle for Google contest. One of the finalists is a Fort Lee 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, and if chosen as the final winner she will receive a \$30,000 scholarship. Mr. Rota congratulated the student and wished her all the best in the final outcome.

Mr. Rota shared that there are no HIB investigations.

Mr. Rota shared an update on School Reopening Plan. The Board agreed to begin the school

year conducting 100% virtual instruction. The goal is to work in an accelerated fashion to move toward in-class instruction safely.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mrs. Han Silver shared that two (2) different groups of Board members toured the school buildings and reported on the extensive PPE progress that has been made since the August 24, 2020 Board meeting. The Board is scheduled to continue conducting tours of the buildings to monitor the PPE progress/maintenance. The ultimate goal is to bring our students back to a safe/in-person learning environment as quickly as possible.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. DiMeglio shared that the B&G Committee met in collaboration with Ms. Cean Spahn, President of the Fort Lee Education Association, to develop a working list of PPE tasks to complete prior to the physical reopening the of school buildings.

Ms. Tuck shared there was a Curriculum Committee meeting and discussed 1) quality control of the virtual instruction will be monitored by the administration; 2) keen focus on special education students being brought back in the buildings; and 3) school reopening updates are promising as the necessary PPE is being delivered and assembled accordingly in each of the schools.

### **PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

Mrs. Richter inquired how we can provide breakfast/lunch for students who have concerns of walking to lunch locations.

Mrs. Morell shares a staff's name misspelling on Agenda item 16P.

Ms. Cho inquired if the District will be sending an updated survey to the community. Mr. Rota shared the goal is to send a survey to the parents by next week. The questionnaire will be simplistic that will focus on a priority question to determine how many parents plan to utilize 100% remote instruction vs. hybrid instruction.

Ms. Cho inquired if quarantine rooms have been designated and how will parents be notified if a student is not required to wear a mask due to health reasons. Mr. Rota shared that the quarantine rooms have been established and the administrators are not required to notify parents of the students who do not wear masks.

Ms. Colbath inquired what the internet connectivity plan will entail.

Mr. DiMeglio inquired about the school WIFI connection and if considered alternatives.

### **HEARING OF CITIZENS - QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS LISTED ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA AND ANY OTHER TOPIC OF CONCERN**

Ms. Taylor shared with the Public that Mr. Rota and/or Mrs. Han Silver will address all the public comments after the public participants speak.

MOTION by Ms. Colbath, seconded by Mrs. Richter, to open the floor to the public, 8:06 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

Dozens of members of the public shared questions and concerns, and most importantly gratitude to the extraordinary efforts of administration, principals, and teachers for a welcoming remote school reopening.

Mr. Rota addressed several questions/concerns such as 1) connectivity issues due to the recent storms has been resolved; 2) masks are mandated to be worn as per the CDC unless there is a medical issue; 3) ultimate goal is to open in-person instruction expeditiously; 4) continue improving technology if virtual instruction is necessary; 4) virtual tours are being created; and 5) addressed tax breaks.

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Ms. Colbath, to close the floor to the public, 8:54 p.m.

MOTION carried upon voice vote, 9-0.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

Motion by Ms. Colbath, seconded by Mrs. Morell to amend item #1POL [P1648 to delete bullet point #4 regarding window air conditioning units on page 51 on Appendix B of the Restart and Recovery Plan].

MOTION carried upon voice vote, 9-0.

### **BOARD**

- 1B** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, approves the following **minutes**:

Special Public Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2020

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Richter, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves item #1B.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0.

### **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

- 1B&G** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent approves the **Integrated Pest Management Plan** for each school building for the 2020-2021 school year. *(Attachment available at Central Office)*

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Ms. Cho, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves item #1B&G.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0.

### **CURRICULUM**

- 1CUR** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the attached **Revised Student Code of Conduct**. [See Appendix Page 11](#)

MOTION by Mrs. Tuck, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves item #1CUR.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0.

**FINANCE**

- 1F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the payment of the claims on the current **bills list in the amount of \$1,066,761.33 for September 2020 checks**. [See Appendix Page 22](#)
- 2F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the payment of the claims on the current **Cafeteria bills list in the amount of \$3,065.10 for September 2020 checks**. [See Appendix Page 33](#)
- 3F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the **non-public funding** for the **2020-2021 school year** as follows:

Non-Public Funding 2020-2021	
Nursing	\$12,106
Technology	\$4,493
Textbook	\$6,578
Security	\$18,720

- 4F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **rates for official fees for carded clock operators for the 2020-2021 school year** as follows:

Football - \$75.00 per game  
Basketball, Soccer, Wrestling - \$50.00 per game

- 5F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to renew the following **transportation contracts with First Student Incorporated**, for the 2020-2021 school year as follows:

Route No.	Contract Amount
0001-Athletics/Band	\$50,572.80

- 6F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves to **amend the tuition rates for the General Education Preschool Program** for the 2020-2021 school year to be reduced from \$900.00 per month to \$450.00 per month during the virtual learning program, due to restrictions for in-person instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**7F** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **disposal/recycling of equipment**:

Quantity	Description	Location	FLBOE ID#s	Reason
1	Exercise Bike	S3	02053	Obsolete
7	Stepper Machines	S3	02047 04561 04562 04557 04558 04559 02050	Obsolete

MOTION by Mrs. Romba, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1F through #7F.

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0.

**PERSONNEL**

**1P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the attendance of staff members at the **staff trips/conferences** listed on the attached summary. *See Appendix Page 39*

**2P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **amended allocation of sick day payouts for 2019-2020 retirees**, as per the attached. This resolution supersedes Resolution No. 30388 dated August 24, 2020. *See Appendix Page 40*

**3P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **tuition rate for credits earned by teachers not to exceed \$740.00 per credit** for the 2020-2021 school year.

**4P** **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **resignations**:

<b><u>RESIGNATIONS</u></b>			
Employee	Position	Location	Effective Date
Kristine Gaffney	Speech Language Therapist	S1/S2	Declined Position

5P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **appointments** for the 2020-2021 school year, pending verification of employment:

<b>APPOINTMENTS</b>						
<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Loc</b>	<b>Position Control #</b>	<b>Annual Salary Prorated</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Jie	Qiao-McComas	PT Teacher Mandarin (.6)	FLHS	07-1506-01	Step 9/ MA \$40,568.00	9/9/20
Jessica	Bijari	Teacher English	FLHS	07-1401-05	Step 8/MA \$71,675.00	9/21/20
Anne	Thomas	Instructional Aide Grade 5 Inclusion (.83)	LFCIS	05-9101-70	Step 1/ Degree \$21,975.00	9/9/20
Tae	Kim	Instructional Aide Preschool Special Education (.83)	S2	02-9101-18	Step 1/ Degree \$21,975.00	9/9/20
Alexa	Aramburu	Instructional Paraprofessional Physical Education (.7)	S4	04-9101-44	Step 1/ Degree \$18,534.00	9/9/20

6P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following **leaves**:

<b>LEAVES</b>									
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Loc</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>New or Amended</b>	<b>Paid Leave</b>	<b>Paid FFCRA Leave ¼ Salary up to \$200.00/day</b>	<b>Unpaid Leave with benefits</b>	<b>Unpaid Leave No Benefits</b>	<b>Return Date</b>
Kerri-Lynn Mauer	Teacher Grade 1	S3	FMLA	New	9/2/20 to 9/11/20	N/A	9/12/20 to 12/14/20	N/A	12/15/20
Karen Simone-Osso	Teacher Grade 3	S1	Maternity	Amended	9/8/20 to 10/12/20	N/A	10/13/20 to 1/14/21	N/A	1/15/21
Rachel DiBartolo	BSI Teacher	S2	Maternity	Amended	5/18/20 to 6/15/20	N/A	6/16/20 to 9/3/20	N/A	9/4/20
Jungim Ha	PT Paraprofessional	S2	FFCRA - Childcare	New	N/A	9/1/20 to 12/2/20	N/A	12/3/20 to 12/31/20	1/1/21
Kristina Gonzalez	Teacher Grade 1	S4	FFCRA - Childcare	New	9/1/20 to 9/9/20	9/10/20 to 11/1/20	N/A	N/A	11/2/20
Karen Chereci	PT Paraprofessional	S4	FFCRA - Childcare	New	N/A	10/19/20 to 12/31/20	N/A	N/A	1/1/21
Sandy Kim-Namkung	Teacher Grade 4	S4	Maternity	Amended	9/1/20 to 9/16/20	N/A	9/17/20 to 1/31/21	N/A	2/1/21

7P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of **leave replacements** during the 2020-2021 school year, as outlined below:

<b>LEAVE REPLACEMENTS</b>					
<b>Name</b>	<b>Grade/ Subject</b>	<b>Loc</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Effective Dates</b>	<b>Reason for opening</b>
Doraine Francisco	Teacher Preschool Special Education	S2	Sub pay for the first 10 days \$100 per day, day 11-60 \$110 per day, day 61+ at the daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1; No Benefits	10/18/20 to 3/22/21	Theresa Bustamante (Maternity)
Deborah Famigletti	Teacher Grade 1	S3	Sub pay for the first 10 days \$100 per day, day 11-60 \$110 per day, day 61+ at the daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1; No Benefits	9/8/20 to 12/16/20	Kerri-Lynn Mauer (FMLA)
Patricia Garay	Teacher Grade 1	S4	Sub pay for the first 10 days \$100 per day, day 11-60 \$110 per day, day 61+ at the daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1; No Benefits	9/1/20 to 11/2/20	Kristina Gonzalez (Child Care Leave)
Briana Popolo	Speech Language Specialist	S1/S2	Sub pay for the first 10 days \$100 per day, day 11-60 \$110 per day, day 61+ at the daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1; No Benefits	9/1/20 to 6/30/21	Lauren Carney and Amanda Schroeder (Maternity Leaves)
Theresa Vallone	School Nurse	S4	MA+40, Step 1 \$64,575.00 (prorated) - No Benefits.	9/9/20 to 6/30/21	Hi Jeong Cecilia Kim (Maternity Leave)
Laudan Asharian	Teacher Grade 4	S4	Sub pay for the first 10 days \$100 per day, day 11-60 \$110 per day, day 61+ at the daily rate equal to a BA, Step 1; No Benefits	9/1/20 to 2/2/21 Plus 3 days NTO Amended	Sandy Kim-Namkung (Maternity Leave)

8P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of the following **Substitutes** for the 2020-2021 school year:

<b>SUBSTITUTES</b>
Caren France

- 9P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **amended hourly rates for the 2020 Summer Employment of Child Study Team staff members**, as outlined below:

Summer 2020 CST Case Management Staff					
First Name	Last Name	Position	# of Hours Not to Exceed	Amended Hourly Rate	Amended Stipend Not to Exceed
Christina	Fitzsimmons	Social Worker	(60+10)=70	\$65.70 Amended	\$4,599.00 Amended
Pamela	Rothman	School Psychologist	(42+10)=52	\$72.13 Amended	\$3,750.76 Amended

- 10P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of **Professional Development Trainers** for certificated staff members at the hourly rate of \$45.00 for Summer 2020 as outlined on the attached. [See Appendix Page 41](#)

- 11P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a pensionable stipend of \$6,500, for each teaching staff member assigned to **teach a sixth period at Lewis F. Cole Middle School and Fort Lee High School** for the 2020-2021 school year as outlined below:

6 <sup>th</sup> Period Stipends	
Lewis F. Cole Middle School	
Name	Subject
Shannon Cevasco	Special Education
Fort Lee High School	
Name	Subject
Barron, Brandon	English
Cohn, Matthew	Math & Special Education
Acosta, Ada	World Language
Della Fave, Christopher	Business
Maceri Guiseppa	Business

- 12P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the 2019-2020 and **2020-2021 Horizontal Movement**, based on graduate level studies that have been completed by faculty personnel, as per the FLEA agreement, as indicated on the attached list. [See Appendix Page 44](#)

- 13P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of **Building Technology Assistants** at a non-pensionable stipend of \$2,000 for the 2020-2021 school year:

<b>2020-2021 BUILDING TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANTS</b>	
<b>Location</b>	<b>Name</b>
School No. 1	Erika Cirone
School No. 2	Maria Ibelli-Castano
School No. 3	Marrietta Golenischew
School No. 4	Rachel Ventrella
Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School	Eleni Despotakis
Lewis F. Cole Middle School	Cean Spahn
Fort Lee High School	Doug Walden
Fort Lee High School	Sophia Karabatsos

- 14P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the placement of the following **Internships, Student Teachers or Practicum Candidates** during the 2020-2021 school year:

<b>INTERNSHIPS/STUDENT TEACHERS/PRACTICUM CANDIDATES</b>							
<b>Referring University</b>	<b>Student Name</b>	<b>Type of Placement</b>	<b>Subject Area</b>	<b># Hours</b>	<b>Months From-To</b>	<b>School Placed</b>	<b>Cooperating Staff Member</b>
University of Pennsylvania	Penelope Min	Fieldwork Internship	School Counseling	300	9/8/2020 – 12/2020	High School	Laura Caddell

- 15P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of **Diane Collazo-Baker as Acting Assistant Superintendent** at the annual salary of \$160,000.00 prorated, as of October 1, 2020, pending approval by the New Jersey Commissioner of Education and the Executive County Superintendent.

- 16P **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of the following **Faculty Coordinators and Program Coordinators** for the 2020-2021 school year.

<b>2020-2021 Faculty Coordinators/Program Coordinators</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Stipend</b>
Christopher Della Fave	Arts/Business	N/A	\$5,000
Giuseppa Walsh Maceri	Academy of Finance Coordinator	B	\$3,161
Brandon Barron	IB Coordinator	D	\$6,327
James Puliatte	H.S. Testing Coordinator	N/A	\$5,000

**17P THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **Susie Lee for 50 hours of Braille translation** at \$30 per hour for student ID #31070368 during the 2020-2021 school year.

MOTION by Mrs. Morell, seconded by Mrs. Romba, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves items #1P through #17P (item #16P as amended).

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0

**POLICY**

**1POL THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fort Lee Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the **first reading of the following policy/regulation updates** listed below: [Click here for 2020-09-08 #1POL Back-up](#)

Policy/Reg No.	Topic
P1648	Restart and Recovery Plan (M) (Revised)
P1648.03	Restart and Recovery Plan Full-Time Remote Instruction (M) (New)
P5350	Student Suicide Prevention (M) (Revised)
R5350	Student Suicide (M) (Revised)

MOTION by Ms. Colbath, seconded by Mrs. Morell, that the Fort Lee Board of Education approves item #1POL. **[As Amended on P1648 to delete bullet point #4 regarding window air conditioning units on page 51 on Appendix B of the Restart and Recovery Plan].**

MOTION carried unanimously upon roll call vote, 9-0

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Rota shared an update regarding the fall athletic season opening as per a report from Mr. Michael Raftery, Athletic Director. Mr. Raftery will be meeting with the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) and will report the results of the meeting to Mr. Rota.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mr. Rubino, seconded by Mrs. Morell, to adjourn, 9:05 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously upon voice vote, 9-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

*Haquisha Q. Taylor*

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**HAQUISHA Q. TAYLOR**  
SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

HQT/toc 09/14/2020